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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE [AU/AU]; Grattan Street, Parkville, VIC 3052 (AU). THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY [AU/AU]; Parramatta Road, Sydney, NSW 2006 (AU). TELSTRA CORPORATION LIMITED [AU/AU]; 242 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000 (AU).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GAN, Hongbing [CN/AU]; 5/635 Drummond Street, Carlton North, VIC 3054 (AU). LOWERY, Arthur, James [GB/AU]; 136 Derby Street, Kew, VIC 3101 (AU). LAUDER, Richard, David, Templeton [GB/AU]; 1/12 Fulham Road, Alphington, VIC 3078 (AU). SCEATS, Mark [AU/AU]; 74 Lamb Street, Lilyfield, NSW 2040 (AU).

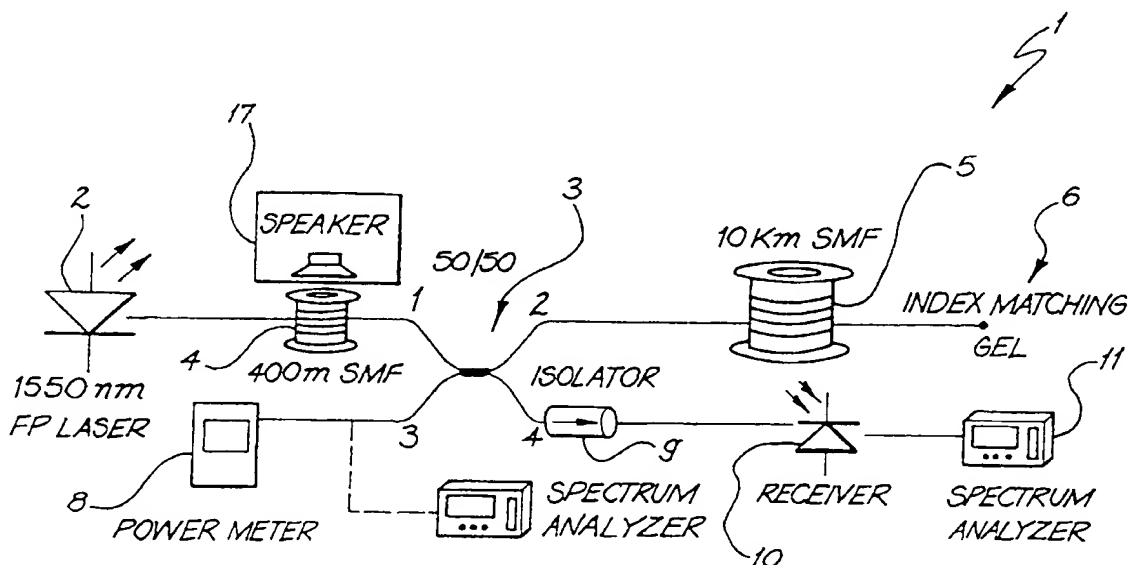
(74) Agent: GRIFFITH HACK; G.P.O. Box 4164, Sydney, NSW 2001 (AU).

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(54) Title: NOISE SUPPRESSION IN LIGHTWAVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract

An optical communications system comprising: a laser source; an optical waveguide interconnected to the laser source to carry an optical signal from the source to an optical receiver; an optical receiver interconnected to the optical waveguide for decoding the signal; and a mechanical modulator adapted to substantially continuously mechanically perturb a portion of the optical waveguide so as to reduce Rayleigh backscattering from the optical waveguide.